

## CLAIMS

1. Nucleic acid comprising all or part of a plant promoter capable  
5 of directing the expression of a nucleotide sequence of interest in the cells  
of the root of a plant throughout the entire development of this latter,  
characterized in that it comprises all or part of a polynucleotide  
possessing at least 80% nucleotide identity with the nucleotide sequence  
SEQ ID No. 1 or a nucleic acid with the complementary sequence, with  
10 the exception of the sequence entered under the reference No. AC 007  
289 in the EMBL data base.

2. Nucleic acid according to Claim 1, characterized in that it  
comprises all or part of a polynucleotide hybridizing under hybridization  
conditions of high stringency with the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID No. 1  
15 or a nucleic acid with the complementary sequence.

3. Nucleic acid according to one of the Claims 1 or 2,  
characterized in that it comprises one of the following sequences:

- the polynucleotide extending from the nucleotide at position 1 to  
the nucleotide at position 2400 of the sequence SEQ ID No. 3;

20 - the polynucleotide extending from the nucleotide at position 493  
to the nucleotide at position 2400 of the sequence SEQ ID No. 3;

- the polynucleotide extending from the nucleotide at position 1076  
to the nucleotide at position 2400 of the sequence SEQ ID No. 3;

25 - the polynucleotide extending from the nucleotide at position 1976  
to the nucleotide at position 2400 of the sequence SEQ ID No. 3; and

- the polynucleotide extending from the nucleotide at position 2040  
to the nucleotide at position 2400 of the sequence SEQ ID No. 3.

4. Nucleic acid according to one of the Claims 1 to 3, characterized  
in that it comprises a nucleotide sequence of interest placed under the  
30 control of the plant promoter.

5. Nucleic acid according to Claim 4, characterized in that it is the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID No. 2.

6. Nucleic acid according to Claim 4, characterized in that the nucleotide sequence of interest is selected from the coding sequences of genes interacting with parasites or pathogens, the sequences coding for the endochitinases, the sequences coding for plant proteins protecting the plant from hydric or salt stress, or also genes acting on the sugar content of the plant or on nitrate transport.

7. Nucleic acid comprising 10 to 2000 consecutive nucleotides of a nucleic acid according to one of the Claims 1 to 4, useful as a nucleotide probe or primer.

8. Recombinant cloning and/or expression vector containing a nucleic acid according to one of the Claims 1 to 7.

9. Recombinant vector according to Claim 8, characterized in that it is selected from the vectors pBin19, 101, pBi221, pBi121 and pC-gus.

10. Recombinant vector according to one of the Claims 8 or 9, characterized in that it is the vector contained in the *E. coli* strain deposited with the NCCM on 25 May 1999 under the access No. I-2218.

11. Recombinant cell host, characterized in that it contains a nucleic acid according to one of the Claims 1 to 7 or a recombinant vector according to one of the Claims 8 to 10.

12. Recombinant host cell according to Claim 11, characterized in that it is of bacterial or plant origin.

13. Recombinant host cell according to Claim 12, characterized in that it is an *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* cell.

14. Recombinant host cell according to one of the Claims 11 to 13, characterized in that it is a cell of the *E. coli* strain deposited with the NCCM on 25 May 1999 under the access No. I-2218.

15. Recombinant plant multicellular organism, characterized in that it comprises a recombinant host cell according to one of the Claims 11 to 13.

16. Transgenic plant comprising in a form integrated in its genome  
5 a nucleic acid according to one of the Claims 1 to 7.

17. Transgenic plant according to Claim 16, characterized in that it is colza, tobacco or maize.

18. Procedure for obtaining a transgenic plant characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- 10 a) Production of a plant recombinant host cell according to one of the Claims 11 or 12;
- b) Regeneration of a whole plant from the recombinant host cell obtained in step a).
- 15 c) Selection of the plants obtained in step b) which have integrated the nucleotide sequence of interest placed under the control of the plant polynucleotide promoter.

19. Procedure for producing a transgenic plant characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- 20 a) Production of an *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* recombinant host cell according to Claim 13;
- b) Transformation of the plant of interest by infection with the recombinant host cell obtained in step a).
- 25 c) Selection of the plants which have integrated the nucleotide sequence of interest placed under the control of the plant polynucleotide promoter.

20. Procedure for producing a transgenic plant characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- a) transfect a plant cell with a nucleic acid according to one of the Claims 1 to 7 or a recombinant vector according to one of the Claims 8 to  
30 10;

b) regeneration of a whole plant from the recombinant host cells obtained in step a).

c) selection of the plants which have integrated the nucleotide sequence of interest placed under the control of the plant polynucleotide promoter.

21. Procedure for the production of a transgenic plant according to one of the Claims 18 to 20, characterized in that it comprises the additional steps:

d) cross of two transgenic plants such as obtained in step c);

e) selection of the plants homozygous for the transgene.

22. Procedure for the production of a transgenic plant according to one of the Claims 18 to 20, characterized in that it comprises the additional steps:

d) cross of a transgenic plant obtained in step c) with a plant of the same species;

e) selection of the plants derived from the cross of step d) which have conserved the transgene.

23. Transgenic plant such as that obtained according to the procedure in accordance with one of the Claims 18 to 22.

24. Plant seed, the constituent cells of which contain in their genome a nucleic acid according to one of the Claims 1 to 7.

25. Seed of a transgenic plant according to one of the Claims 16, 17 and 23.